
**TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY WORKING GROUP
of the
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS**

**March 25, 2008
Minutes**

THE FOLLOWING MINUTES ARE A SUMMARY OF THE MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY WORKING GROUP. AN AUDIOCASSETTE TAPE OF THE ACTUAL MEETING IS AVAILABLE FOR LISTENING IN SCAG'S OFFICE.

The Meeting of the Transportation Conformity Working Group was held at the SCAG office in Los Angeles.

In Attendance:

Abrishami, Lori	MTA
Gutierrez, Jose	City of Los Angeles
Litschi, Michael	OCTA
Shavit, Avital	MTA
Williams, Leann	Caltrans District 7

SCAG Staff

Acebo, Mervin
Amatya, Naresh
Asuncion, John
Ayala, Rosemary
Del Rosario, Sheryll
Lo, Sofia
Nadler, Jonathan
Patsaouras, Sylvia
Sherwood, Arnie

Via Teleconference:

Behtash, Arman	Caltrans District 12
Brady, Mike	Caltrans Headquarters
Cacatian, Ben	Ventura County Air Pollution
Chandon, Nina	Caltrans District 8
Chattman, Karen	TRC
Fagan, Paul	Caltrans District 8
Gallo, Ilene	Caltrans Headquarters
Jeffery, Edison	Caltrans District 8
Johnson, Sandy	Caltrans District 11

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Kennedy, Eileen	Caltrans District 12
Lay, Keith	LSA & Associates
Lopez, Rosa	IVAG
Louka, Tony	Caltrans District 8
Louis, Monica	ARB
Medina, Shirley	RCTC
Noch, Michelle	FHWA
O'Connor, Karina	EPA Region 9
Pirveysian, Zorik	SCAQMD
Yoon, Andrew	Caltrans District 7
Sells, Eyvonne	SCAQMD
Wade, Dennis	ARB

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

Michael Litschi, OCTA, called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no comments.

3.0 CONSENT CALENDAR

3.1 Approval Item

3.1 TCWG February 26, 2008 Meeting Minutes

The minutes were approved with a correction to the typo in the date of the heading (i.e., 2007 will be corrected to 2008).

4.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

4.1 RTIP Update

John Asuncion, SCAG, reported that 2006 RTIP Amendment No. 14 was approved by Caltrans on March 14, 2008. SCAG sent a packet to Caltrans for 2006 RTIP Amendment No. 15 on March 24, 2008. The 2006 RTIP Amendment to ensure consistency with the 2008 RTP will be approved

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concurrently with the 2008 RTP at the Regional Council meeting in May. Staff continues to work diligently on the 2008 RTIP development.

4.2 SIP Update

Dennis Wade, ARB, provided a SIP update. ARB plans to adopt ozone Early Progress Plans to establish transportation emission budgets for Ventura County, Western Mojave Desert, Coachella Valley, Eastern Kern County and Imperial County. In the past, these conformity budgets would have been set with reasonable further progress (RFP) plans. However, the U.S. EPA is revising the requirements for RFP plans and will not approve RFP plans for these areas until the new requirements are in place. Setting conformity budgets with the Early Progress Plans will allow transportation planning to move forward while EPA revises the requirements for RFP plans.

Ozone plans for Ventura and Western Mojave, and ozone and PM10 plans for Imperial County, are in the process of being prepared.

Jonathan Nadler, SCAG, stated that SCAG staff has worked closely with the ARB on the Early Progress Plans to ensure data accuracy and the adequacy of the budgets relative to conformity.

4.3 RTP Update

Naresh Amatya, SCAG, stated that the public comment period for the Draft 2008 RTP closed on February 19th. The comments are available on SCAG's website. Currently, staff is working on the response to the comments. On March 6, the SCAG Community, Economic and Human Development (CEHD) Committee recommended approval of the 2008 RTP Growth Forecast to the Regional Council. The CEHD recommended the baseline growth forecast as the 2008 RTP Growth Forecast with advisory land use policies and strategies.

On March 19th, a special meeting of the SCAG Transportation and Communications Committee (TCC) was held to discuss two projects: 1) the Orangeline High Speed Maglev that would connect southern Orange County with northern Los Angeles County; and 2) the CETAP Corridor B. Both of

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the projects were discussed, however no action was taken at that meeting. The TCC is scheduled another meeting on April 3rd.

There was a meeting of the RTAC, the consultation requirement between all the County Commissions per AB-1246. The primary issues discussed at the meeting were the growth forecast and the Orangeline and CETAP projects.

Staff anticipates the RTP to be taken to the Regional Council for adoption on May 8th. SCAG has agreed with FHWA to submit the final adopted plan to the federal agencies by May 16th for their review. FHWA and FTA have agreed to an expedited review of the RTP considering that the existing conformity finding expires on June 7th.

A question was raised relative to projects included in the part of the RTP known as the Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan includes those projects which merit further study and that, over time and with further consensus building, may move forward into the constrained RTP. The conformity analysis is performed on those projects included in the fiscally constrained RTP.

Jonathan Nadler, SCAG, and Dennis Wade, ARB, briefed the TCWG on the transportation emission budgets, specifically as they relate to South Coast. During EPA's review of the South Coast ozone and PM2.5 emission budgets, concern was raised relative to the emission reduction assumptions prior to 2014. ARB discussed these issues with EPA, SCAG and South Coast AQMD.

These discussions led to ARB developing two sets of emission budgets for EPA's consideration. The first (preferred) set reflects the 2007 SIP submittal for the South Coast Air Basin, including the locally adopted 2007 AQMP and the 2007 State Strategy adopted by ARB. The second set of budgets reflects control measures adopted as of October, 2006 – the rules that formed the baseline emission inventory used in the development of the 2007 SIP. SCAG's revised conformity analysis demonstrates conformity with either set of budgets (or any iteration of budgets that may be deemed adequate by EPA).

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Based on these considerations, the RTP schedule is as follows:

- SCAG will release a revised conformity report by the end of this week. The ARB will consider the revised budgets at its April 24 hearing.
- EPA will parallel process review of the revised budgets with ARB's public comment period.
- SCAG's Regional Council would take action on the RTP and conformity finding on May 8th.
- FHWA has agreed to expedite their review and has requested that the RTP be submitted to them by May 16th.

Jonathan Nadler also discussed the analysis of timely implementation of Transportation Control Measures (TCMs). It was noted that as SCAG is proceeding with the conformity analysis for the 2008 RTP, staff is also working on the conformity analysis 2008 RTIP. As part of this process, MTA has identified two projects with completion dates in 2010 that may have implementation obstacles: 1) a ¼ mile bike lane and, 2) a bus stop improvement program. MTA has identified two new projects which can readily substitute for the original two projects. MTA has formally requested that SCAG begin the substitution process. The TCWG agreed that it was necessary to arrange a follow-up call with the FHWA to make sure that the schedule does not interfere with other planning requirements for the projects.

MTA has also identified a project that was incorrectly labeled as a TCM. The proposed project is reconstruction of a facility demolished as part of the Westlake/McArthur Park Metro Red Line Station. It is a mixed-use, transit-oriented development that would include retail space and housing units. The project does not include a park-in-ride facility nor does it include the development of an integrated system of vanpool or carpooling. The parking mainly serves the retail and housing components and its use for vanpool or carpooling is incidental. MTA is requesting that we correct the designation of this project.

There was consensus on these MTA projects relative to timely implementation.

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4.4 Review of PM Hot Spot Interagency Review Forms

1) LA0F098 – Construct one/two-lane bridge structure, branching off Southbound of Route 605 to Eastbound of Route 10 at-grade connector ramp.

Not a POAQC

2) ORA000161 – Improvements to State Route 55, Newport Bl. from 17th Street to 19th Street in the City of Coast Mesa

Not a POAQC.

3) RIV010208 – Replace existing two-lane I-15/Cajalco Road overcrossing with a new six-lane overcrossing, eliminating the gap on Cajalco Road

Not a POAQC.

4.5 Review of Qualitative PM Hot Spot Analysis

LA0D45 – Schuyler Heim Bridge Replacement and SR-47 Expressway Project

The Qualitative PM Hot Spot Analysis for LA0D45 was resubmitted to the TCWG on March 25, 2008 (originally submitted October 2006). The scope of the project has been changed to include an additional two-lane, elevated flyover structure from eastbound Ocean Boulevard to northbound SR-47. Alternative 1: Bridge Replacement and Expressway, has been selected as the Preferred Alternative. The revised qualitative PM Hot Spot Analysis was deemed tentatively acceptable for NEPA circulation by Caltrans and FHWA, awaiting approval from EPA.

4.6 Projects Requiring Follow-Up

Andrew Yoon, Caltrans, discussed a proposed project that would be combined with LALS02. The proposed project is similar in scope and

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involves the repair, rehabilitation, and/or construction of a new bridge on SR-39. The TCWG determined that the original determination of not a POAQC for LALS02 can be applied to this new project. However, the TCWG requested that the project sponsor submit a revised PM Hot Spot Interagency Review Form to reflect the adjusted milepost markers.

5.0 CHAIR'S REPORT

No new items to report.

6.0 INFORMATION SHARING

No items.

6.0 ADJOURNMENT

Michael Litschi adjourned the meeting at 11:05 a.m.

The next Transportation Conformity Working Group meeting will be held on April 22, 2008 at the SCAG office in Los Angeles.